

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Embodiment 1, illustrated in Fig. 1;  
Embodiment 2, illustrated in Figs 2-4;  
Embodiment 3, illustrated in Fig. 5;  
Embodiment 4, illustrated in Figs. 6-7;  
Embodiment 5, illustrated in Figs. 8-9;  
Embodiment 6, illustrated in Fig. 10;  
Embodiment 7, illustrated in Fig. 11;  
Embodiment 8, illustrated in Figs. 12-13;  
Embodiment 9, illustrated in Figs. 14-16; and  
Embodiment 10, illustrated in Fig. 17.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Species I, illustrated in Fig(s). 1 with traverse.

Claim(s) 1 and 11-14 are directed to the elected species. As acknowledged by the Examiner, there is no claim that is generic.

Applicants remind the Examiner that there must be a serious burden on the Examiner which requires the restriction of claims before a restriction can be made. M.P.E.P. 803.

Applicants respectfully submit that examination of claims 1-20 together would not provide a serious burden on the examiner. Although the various figures represent different embodiments of the

present invention and multiple independent claims are recited directed to these various embodiments, the basic structure and operation remain the same throughout the various embodiments. Also, the variation in claim language is not enough to cause a serious burden on the examiner when examining the claims. In fact, independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19 and 20 recite a majority of common features and thus examination of one independent claim necessarily includes to some extent examination of the other independent claims.

Further, since the examiner has restricted the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121, "the examiner, in order to establish reasons for insisting upon restriction, must show by appropriate explanation of one of the following:

- (A) separate classification thereof;
- (B) separate status in the art when they are classifiable together;
- (C) a different field of search

where, however the classification is the same and the field of search is the same and there is no clear indication of separate feature classification and field of search, no reason exist for dividing among related inventions." M.P.E.P. 808.02.

Applicants respectfully submit that the examiner has made no attempt to provide an explanation for requiring a restriction of the alleged "species" in the present invention. Moreover,

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden does not exist in part because the various alleged "species" are likely drawn to the same classification and field of search.


Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction be withdrawn and claims 1-20 be examined together.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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